

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/649,580

Applicant(s)

DUNN, GEORGE A.

Examiner

Art Unit

Daniell L. Negrón

2651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 3 November 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Chun-Pok Leung (Reg. No. 41,405) on January 19, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 8, line 5,

-delete "...is..."

2. Claims 1-24 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-7 and 24, claim 1 teaches an apparatus for detecting polarity reversals in a read/write head of a disk drive system, wherein decoding circuitry is implemented for decoding a direction signal to provide a decoded signal, wherein the direction signal is generated by the read/write head in response to reading a directional pattern stored on a data track of a magnetic disk in an area of the data track between data portions of the data track for storing user data and a servo region, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the prior art.

Regarding claims 8-14, claim 8 teaches a disk drive system for reading magnetic recording media and reversing polarity of a read signal, wherein a read/write head that includes a read sensor for reading data written onto data tracks on the magnetic recording media and generating a read signal, wherein the read sensor reads direction patterns stored in areas of the

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data tracks between data portions of the data tracks for storing user data and servo regions, which is neither taught or an obvious variation of the prior art.

Regarding claim 15-20, independent claim 15 teaches a disk drive system for reading magnetic recording media and reversing polarity of a signal. The distinguishing elements of the claim are means for writing direction patterns on data tracks of a magnetic disk in areas of the data tracks between data portions of the data tracks for storing user data and servo regions and reading the direction patterns to generate a polarity signal, means for determining if the polarity signal matches a first pattern, and means for reversing the polarity of signals generated by reading data on the data tracks if the polarity signal matches the first pattern. The Examiner interprets this claim to fall within the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph. The portion of the specification supporting the claim language is on page 5, line 11 through page 6, line 17 that describes a system for writing and reading directional patterns to determine polarity reversals. Therefore, the claim is construed to cover the corresponding structure, material or acts described within the specification.

Regarding claims 21-23, reasons for allowance are as discussed in the previous Office action mailed October 3, 2005.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniell L. Negrón whose telephone number is 571-272-7559.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30am-5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DLN 
January 19, 2006


DAVID HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600